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## Carnegie Hall, NYC feeds passion



Top: Two local members of WMYC Alumni are in NYC: Cody Thiessen pictured in Carnegie Hall with the soloist in the piece "Waloyo Yamoni."

Left: Charley Dunning and her mum, Shauna at Top of the Rock.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE ADVANCE

Two local youth had the experience of a lifetime in New York City, singing with a 209-voice choir in Carnegie Hall.

In mid-January Oak Lake's Cody Thiessen glimpsed an email in his inbox from Westman Youth Choir Alumni.

"I saw the words 'New York' and I kind of did a double take." He ran upstairs yelling, "Hey Mom, hey Dad, look at this!"

He and Charley Dunning of Virden had sung with Westman Youth Choir and now they were invited to be part of the WMYC Alumni choir which would join a mass choir in Carnegie Hall on June 16.

This performance "We sing! We Rise! We Soar!" celebrated double Grammy award winner Christopher Tin, who conducted the performance.

Only last year, Konektis Choir founded by Michelle Chzyk, performed with a mass choir on the famous stage. But for Thiessen, he says, "It never really occurred to me that I'd have an opportunity to do something there."

Dunning has completed her Grade 11 year. She was one of the youngest choir members. Her role in the choir was with the alto1 group.

She was amazed by the experience. "The view from the stage and having that big of an audience surprised me the most about Carnegie Hall. It was an incredible view, and such an enthusiastic audience." It was the hall's largest crowd since 2022.

Thiessen graduated from Grade 12 on Tuesday. He's employed at Prairie Life Dental by his uncle, Dr. Joseph Thiessen. He's the sterilization technician, cleaning the instruments and the rooms.

For individual practice Manitoba conductor Shannon Moses provided backing tracks for each group (tenor 2 in Thiessen's case) to sing with. He used travel time to his work, and any spare moment over the six-month preparation period to sing with the recordings and learn the repertoire.

In only four in-person group practices with the WMYC Alumni and a couple of days to practice with the mass choir, they performed for a record crowd in Carnegie Hall

read more about the choir on page 2...

## Inside...



**CLASS OF  
2024  
RESTON**  
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**CLASS  
OF 2024  
ELKHORN**  
*P10*



# WMYC Alumni amazing experience

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**CHALLENGED**

Alto, soprano, mezzo soprano and bass parts, with some splits among these groups meant many harmony lines. “It was quite a challenge to learn,” says Thiessen in the tenor 2 group.

Seven of Christopher Tin’s compositions in four different languages were performed:

- Sogno di Volare
- Iza Ngomso, from The Drop that Contained the Sea
- The Saddest Noise, from The Lost Birds
- Wild Swans, from The Lost Birds
- Hope is the Thing with Feathers, from The Lost Birds
- Baba Yetu, from Calling All Dawns
- Waloyo Yamoni, from The Drop That Contained the Sea

He’s never sung in Italian and said of Sogno di Volare, “This was really difficult for me personally to learn because Italian is a tough language to sing. I found it to be tough to learn the pronunciation, but once you sing it, it flows really nicely. Just learning it is so rocky at first, a lot on the brain.”

Thiessen said of one of Tin’s powerful compositions from The Lost Birds, “As I was singing it, I could feel ... almost the flight of the bird in my chest, despite not even looking through the English (translation).”

Singing on that great stage was demanding.

Dunning said, “Personally, adapting to the orchestra was really difficult. The reverb and new sound caused us to either be behind or rushing on the beat.”

Thiessen agreed. “You are surrounded by people who are all striving for one goal, but you all have to look towards the conductor for guidance because that space is so big that by the time

the sound travels back to you, even from the orchestra, you can be a full beat off if you’re not watching the conductor. You have to be very focussed. It’s a surreal experience. It’s extraordinary.”

**INSPIRED**

“I absolutely loved ‘Waloyo Yamoni’ and that was our closing piece... a 12-minute-long song and it’s one of the most beautiful choral pieces I’ve ever heard,” said Thiessen.

“There is just something the way it was sung by everyone and then the soloist... I loved listening to his voice and then being able to join in after his solo.” Thiessen describes this dynamic piece, “It felt like... rains in Africa. Warm and you could almost feel the rain on your skin.” The atmosphere changed. “You could feel it in the ground. There’s a storm coming and it’s about to get ya.”

Travelling with his dad, Michael Thiessen, the trip was more than special to Cody. The World Trade Centre among all the huge skyscrapers was an “unbelievable” sight. “Especially when the sun was bouncing off them. The light was just crazy.”

But it was attending the Broadway hit Hamilton that did something for Thiessen. “The best show I’ve ever seen. Unparalleled. It was so emotional. I know the story very well. I’d been listening to the soundtrack for quite a while.”

He’s played in musicals on the Aud Theatre stage. Since experiencing Broadway he stated, “I definitely want to stay in the ‘musical’ world... to do that, my whole life. I’m going to be doing some choral stuff, some musical stuff in the fall.”

Charley and her mother Shauna Dunning and an aunt enjoyed the Big Apple. “I did many special things.”

Not only did they

tour Central Park, but also saw two Broadway shows including Home Alone 2: Lost in New York.

“I will never forget the two Broadway shows... they inspired me to continue with music and to not be afraid to go all out on stage,” said Charley.



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# School librarian shares her perspective

By Anne Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

*Kim Mackenzie, Reston School librarian, was invited to share a few words at the recent Fort La Bosse School Division Recognition Night held in Oak Lake Community Centre, June 6. She's retired after nearly 37 years with FLBSD.*

*We published part of her address last week, here's more about what work as a librarian can be:*

I would like to thank Fort La Bosse for the opportunity to hold one of the more coveted positions in the entire division for so many years. It has been my absolute pleasure to be librarian at both Reston Schools for nearly 37 years. I have loved every moment in the library, and it has been like a second home to me. I would like to acknowledge my school administrators and I have had a few over the years. They have all given me free rein to run the library as I saw fit and to incorporate any program or new activity with their full support. I am grateful they had full trust in my decisions, or perhaps they just kept saying yes to keep me out of their hair.

It has been an amazing journey one I had no idea would last one school month short of 37 years.

Back in 1987 it was the perfect job for a young mom of three sons who all were hockey players on three different teams. I could load my car up with hockey bags in the morning, head to school and directly to the rink at 3:30. I was able to take in all their extracurricular activities and would even catch sometimes seven games on a weekend.

I must confess however, I haven't always been that gold star employee you see standing in front of you: In the early 1990s there was a terrible blizzard on a Thursday evening

in March that resulted in schools closed the next day. You know the drill, no school you stay home, right? BUT provincial hockey tournaments stop for nothing . . . so early that Friday morning I was able to maneuver the highways to Souris for the 9 a.m. game. I sheepishly walked into the rink and the first person I saw was our resource teacher whose son was also on the team. We both cracked right up and went on to thoroughly enjoy the weekend with our boys coming home with the gold medal.

If going to school with my sons was great it has been an absolute thrill to go to school with my grandchildren every day from kindergarten to watching our youngest grandson graduate in a couple of weeks.

**MANY HATS**

I have many wonderful memories of my time first in Reston Elementary where I wore two hats as EA and librarian and actually did a couple of different years as admin assistant. When our schools amalgamated in 2011, I chose to embrace the change and quickly started incorporating the library into a K-12 facility. Believe me you must pivot quickly if you have Kinders one period and Grade 12 the next. I can easily say there has never been a dull moment and clock watching was never a part of my day.

No library day was ever the same and contrary to popular opinion librarians don't just sit in the library and read books all day. It was great to hold those special days in the library such Titanic Day or scary stories in the darkened library, dressed in my best witch costume seems to have become legendary.

However, I would say 14 years of hosting Battle of the Books was a highlight, watching the gym fill up with sometimes over 100 Grades 5 & 6 students from



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVIDSON

Kim MacKenzie, Reston School Librarian.

across the division. There is nothing like a little competition to spice things up and the kids loved it. The Battle wouldn't have been the success it was without the librarians from VJH, Oak Lake, Kola and Elkhorn promoting it to their students as well.

This led into the 'Who Was Challenge' for Grade 7's, a reach for the top competition complete with buzzers. They loved it - another great literacy activity for FLB with both activities introducing the students to many different genres.

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## WADO Field Day & Bus Tour

### Thursday July 25, 2024

Check-in at 9:15 Bus Leaves 10:00 a.m. Sharp & runs until 3:00 p.m.  
At the **Melita Ball Diamonds**, ¼ Mile East of the Banana Statue  
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**Minimizing risk:** Diversification can help minimize risk by spreading your investments across different asset classes, industries, and sectors. This means that if one area experiences a downturn, your portfolio won't be completely wiped out.

**Providing consistent returns:** A diversified portfolio can provide consistent returns over the long term, even in a volatile market. This can help ensure that retirees have a stable source of income throughout their retirement years.

**Accommodating different goals:** A diversified portfolio can be tailored to suit different goals, such as generating income, preserving capital, or achieving long-term growth.

**Reducing taxes:** A well-diversified portfolio can also help reduce taxes. By investing in tax-efficient assets and spreading investments across different accounts, retirees can minimize their tax liability.

**Providing peace of mind:** A diversified portfolio can help retirees feel more secure about their financial future, knowing that their investments are spread out and not dependent on any single holding.

By spreading investments across various asset classes, industries, and sectors, retirees can minimize risk and maintain a balance between growth and stability. This approach not only helps in weathering market fluctuations but also provides consistent returns over the long term, ensuring a stable income throughout retirement.

Moreover, a diversified portfolio can be customized to meet specific goals such as income generation, capital preservation, or long-term growth. By investing in tax-efficient assets and utilizing different accounts, retirees can also minimize their tax liability, enhancing their overall returns. Prioritizing diversification, retirees can safeguard their financial well-being and navigate the complexities of the market with confidence. Embracing a diversified investment strategy offers peace of mind by spreading out investments and avoiding reliance on any single holding.

Overall, having a diversified investment portfolio is essential for retirees who want to ensure their financial stability and minimize risk. Working with a financial advisor to develop a diversified portfolio that is tailored to your individual needs and goals can help ensure a comfortable retirement.

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Tundra  
By Chad Carpenter



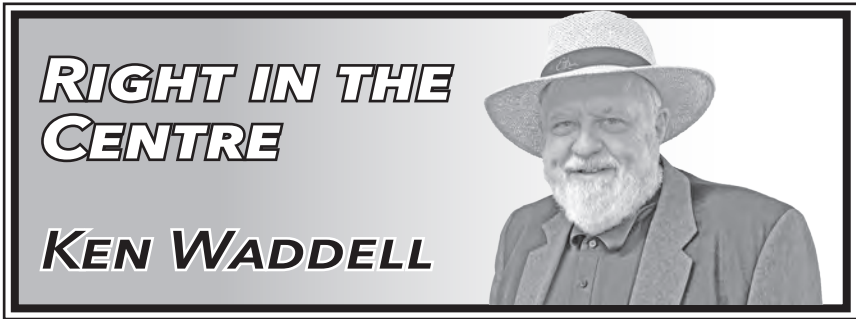
35 years in the making

Last week I wrote about the way we have developed our newspaper business model and how the Waddell family now has three papers. The Neepawa Banner & Press and now the Virden Empire Advance are owned by my wife Christine and myself with some input from our two sons, Mike and Rob. The Rivers Banner is owned by grandson Micah Waddell and as noted last week we manage it for him. I forgot to say last week that son Mike, and his wife Naomi, publish Brandon's News-in-Minute.

For centuries now, newspapers have had subscription fees or papers have been sold on a copy-by-copy basis but we don't do that. Most subscription based papers are shrinking in numbers while most free circulation papers are growing in circulation.

The "free" paper concept came to Manitoba in the 1980s and we were introduced to the idea by the late Harvey Friesen. He published a paper out of the Winkler-Morden area and it was pretty successful even though he gave it away free. Harvey was a very friendly fellow, a Mennonite by birth, he was a WWII veteran of the RCAF. I can still hear Harvey's words from newspaper conventions regaling his fellow publishers. "Boys," he'd say, "get rid of those subscription lists. You have to send out bills and sometimes two or three times, you have to keep up the subscriber lists and print labels. Then you have to stick labels on the papers and pay more at Canada Post because they are addressed."

Back in those days, Canada Post was the way to go, but 30 years later, Canada Post has slipped badly in their service. If you put a paper in



the mail in a local post office to be shipped to even a neighbouring town, it has to go to Brandon or Winnipeg and sit in a warehouse, sometimes overnight but more often it sits for several days. When we used Canada Post, we had many instances where papers could take a week to end up ten miles down the road. It wasn't usually the local postmistresses' fault, they usually gave excellent service but the papers had to get to their Post Office first. We would end up driving the Neepawa Banner & Press to the post offices. In addition, over the 30 years we ran into at least six postal strikes where Canada Post didn't deliver at all.

So we have evolved away from Canada Post almost entirely. When we pulled out of Canada Post we saved over \$80,000 per year in postage. You would think someone from Canada Post would have phoned and asked why we left but you guessed it, we never got a call. It just makes sense now to put our former postage money into a couple of good vehicles and hire drivers.

With a paid circulation model, the subscribers determine the coverage area. With the free model, we determine the coverage area, it's consistent and hopefully we get the papers out on time and to where

they are wanted. Admittedly, we have had to delay deliveries a couple of times due to winter storms but if we can't drive, likely the mail truck can't either.

So it has taken over 30 years to develop the paper model we use now. Like I said last week, a newspaper has to have news, ads, opinions and paper. It's not rocket science but it is effective. Your community paper will come to you and be available in many places for the foreseeable future. But to be able to pay our printer, our staff and buy gas for the vans, we need ads. Quite frankly, we need lots of ads.

Also, we extend a vote of thanks to Glacier Media because with the Neepawa Press in 2015 and with the Virden Empire Advance in 2024, they realized that a locally owned model better serves the community than a big corporation model. I thank them for recognizing that and for selling us those two papers. The Neepawa Banner, the paper we started, is only 35 years old but the other three titles are all way over 100 years old. It is an honour to carry on the community newspaper tradition.



The week in review...

My thumb is healing! On Father's Day Sunday I chose to honor the men who have loved me well by cleaning the vehicle. Like, really clean the rascal, just the way both men would have wanted it done. I vacuumed, dusted, washed and wiped. I'm rather one who uses the vehicle for transporting me and many items, rather than the one who deeply cares about how clean it is. I was close to finished when, with the right hand on the front door jamb, the left hand solidly closed the door. Fortunately the right hand could still think enough to open the door and release the thumb. There was a prolonged moment of silence. ...I did pause long enough to soak the throbbing digit in ice water and then completed the clean up. It was mid week before feeling fully returned to my thumb, and it was rather difficult to discern how swollen the knuckle was because that's my weather sensitive thumb, rather arthritic from the time an errant cow wrapped my thumb, backwards, around a post. All is good. It was the right thumb and I am right handed, surprising how many times I flinched when performing ordinary things like using the zipper on my jacket.

And I planted more trees! As I dig the hole to drop in another fruit tree, these are really shrubs, haskaps, I think back to Mr. Bergen, a friend of my fathers. He was really old when we had the conversation- probably as old as I am now!- when I challenged him about planting an apple tree when he would likely never get to eat the fruit. Understanding youth, he assured me he was planting them for his children and grandchildren, planting them for food and pleasure. And so I plant. Then I got permission to plant a boulevard tree, and I was delighted to research the best soil and amend the soil to try to guarantee success. I did get my oldest son to align the spot with the existing trees, nothing like a straight line! "I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree", Joyce Kilmer.

My days are filled with quiet pleasures. The garden is growing, more slowly than I expected. Spinach salads fresh from the garden, hot radishes, and mini cucumbers. All the while watching the strawberries blooming, the raspberries stretching in all directions, the gooseberries really set well, as did the apples, and the grapes. There are times when I wonder if it may be time to cut back, especially after I had to fence my front garden to keep the rabbits out! Watching fruits and vegetables grow, enough for summer dining, sharing with family, and even processing some for winter enjoyment is rewarding for me. With smaller, often raised, garden spaces, I can clean one or two areas in minutes, and never feel overwhelmed. And then, just because I can and I wanted to, I painted the back garage door. That meant oil based paint for metal. Fortunately I already was outside, so ventilation wasn't an issue. Cleaning the brushes and rollers, different story! Easy summer days.



# Pioneer Home Museum features photographic history

Submitted  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The first stereoscope was invented by physicist Charles Wheatstone in 1838 and was later improved by David Brewster in 1849. A hand-held version of the stereoscope was developed by Oliver Wendell Holmes in 1859.

A stereoscope is an optical instrument that turns two of the same images into a single 3D image called a stereograph. Each image is slightly angled differently, which creates a 3D illusion. The first stereoscope was used to investigate binocular vision; however, it eventually was sold for entertainment purposes.

Stereoscopes were very affordable so anyone could buy one. The stereographs, the two photos used for a stereoscope, were not only for entertainment purposes but also used to journal important events. Some events shown in stereographs include parades, political events, and disasters. Also, many of the stereographs include historic buildings and places, ordinary people of the day, and landscapes.

The stereoscope at the museum was manufactured by the Underwood & Underwood company in New York. It is named the Sun Sculpture stereoscope, and the design was patented on June 11, 1901. The Underwood & Underwood company was founded in 1882 in Ottawa, Kansas. Its founders were Bert and Elmer Underwood. The two brothers focused their business on Eastern photographer's stereographs to sell in the West. They went door to door selling stereographs of photographers such as J.F. Jarvis, Charles Bierstadt, and some from the Littleton View Company. Eventually, the brothers opened an office in 1887 in Baltimore and moved their headquarters to New York in 1891.

Production continued in Ottawa, Kansas, with a building plant constructed in 1891. There, they manufactured stereoscopes, stereographic cameras, and stereographs. By 1901, Underwood & Underwood was the leading company for stereographs and stereoscopes, producing 25,000 stereographs a day! When they were in high production the company hired summer students to be the salesmen during the summer months. One summer they had 3,000 students working.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bert Underwood also began learning photography to have their own stereographs published. They upgraded their products by beginning to add descriptions to the stereographs which were sold in a package of 100 stereographs.

The company ceased production by 1940, selling their rights and stocks to their main competitor, Keystone View Company. Between 1915 and 1920, that company bought almost all the negatives from their competitors including ones from Underwood & Underwood. The

Keystone company kept up the stereograph production after its popularity decreased. They created an educational department in 1898 that produced sets of stereographs which illustrated technology, history, geography, and natural studies.

Stereographs and stereoscopes were popular between 1870 and 1920 but some are still created today. These optical instruments paved the way for virtual reality and 3D film.

## The news from Miniota School's over with much to celebrate

Submitted  
BY LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Peyton Hawtin who was nominated athlete of the week by the Canadian Cowboys Association. Peyton and his horse made an 11-second run in calf roping at Pilot Butte, Sask.

Trevor and Marcie Lewis, Connor and Aiden, along with grandmas Linda Lewis and Bonnie Robbins travelled to Winnipeg to join Keenan and Tricia, Sophia and Oaklan in celebrating Keenan's graduation from the University of Winnipeg with his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Congratulations Keenan from your Miniota friends!

Dorothy Gow flew to Leduc, Alta. to visit with her son Kent Doole. She enjoyed seeing the sites of the area, one being a craft market which held 250 vendors.

Congratulations to the Miniota Royals Girls U11 on their baseball showing at provincials in Winnipeg. This team is composed of Gracie Muir, Blair Howard, and Ashlynn Cousins of Miniota; along with Claire Corr, Reagan Bell, Sadie Naylor, Jayde Goertzen, Kinley Graham, and Paisley Malchuk from Birtle and Sloan and Tessa Paul of Elkhorn along with their coaches Amy Bell, Courtney Muir and Duncan Lelond.

Congratulations to Monelle Bryant and Brooke Thompson who are members of the Hamiota U19 Girls Baseball team for winning the league championship.

The Miniota Museum committee held a bake sale and tea in the Miniota DropIn on June 22.

Holy Trinity Anglican and Miniota United Church congregations held a shared congregational meeting on Sunday, June 23. Our two churches have been sharing worship on a trial basis since January of this year, and the decision was made to continue this arrangement with details to be worked out this fall.

Congratulations to Tess Sheane and Tyler Quasso on the birth of their daughter, Kenna Joy Marie, on June 24 at Brandon. Kenna is also welcomed by her siblings Jaxon, Sawyer and Jayden and a proud grandma Janice Kerr, along with other family members.

Warm 95th birthday wishes on June 25 are being extended to Mae Watters from her Arrow River and Miniota friends. We hope you enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating with family and friends.

Our Miniota Community extends congratulations and best wishes to Ty McKenzie and Jaxon Lelond on their graduation from Grade 12 at the Birtle Collegiate on June 25. We wish you well in all your future endeavours.

The Miniota School held its closing exercises on June 27. Sending good wishes with the graduating Grade 8 class this year and moving on to BCI in the fall are Lexi Brown, Tiffany Brown, Dallen Brown, Landon Clark, Colby Howard, Reese Lelond, Jake Muir, Elly Priestley, Katelyn Wiles and Nevaeh Spanics.

Also at the closing exercises the retirement of Shelley Gardham was acknowledged, having worked as an Educational Assistant at the school for 27 years. A student commented, 'Mrs. Gardham will be missed.' Happy retirement Shelley. Enjoy and well deserved!

It is summer holidays once again. Wishing all the students, their families and the staff, a wonderful relaxing holiday.


To all our readers have a great summer. Enjoy the sun and some down time as we have already passed the spring equinox and you all know what that signifies. Please call in your summer news to 204-567-3847.

"Doing something for ourselves gives satisfaction, but doing something for others gives meaning." -James Hutton

### ISABELLA NEWS

Congratulations to Bill Flynn and his teammates of the 1977 Team Manitoba Canada Summer Games who were inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame. Attending the ceremony with Bill were his wife Carolyn, his daughter Krista Flynn of Brandon, and son Patrick Flynn and his son Cole of East St. Paul.

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# Retired teachers went east for the day

Submitted  
BY KEL SMITH

It would be the time of year for the area's retired teachers to go on their annual day trip. This happened on Monday, June 10. It proved to be good weather for the most part, though rain began on the way home. We were lucky.

Our trip this year was to the provincial capital to tour and learn about two very fascinating topics. One being a serious introduction to tropical and Mediterranean climate plants.

The other topic was aviation in Manitoba from a bi-plane as in two wings through to the Starfighter, which was more like a pilot strapped on a rocket.

In each location we had guides - three at 'The Leaf' in Assiniboine Park and two guides at the 'Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada' near the Richardson International Airport Terminal.

We had 36 of us on the chartered bus out of Brandon. This was so, so good in not having to drive, we could see the sights along the highway, visit with longtime and new friends, play some fun games of bingo and hear some wild jokes.

The passengers were mostly from the Virden area with a pick-up of more passengers in Brandon. Not everyone on the charter was a retired teacher as we had opened the trip up to the public to make the trip happen. The price was certainly right as the charge for the day with everything included was just \$150.

The visit to The Leaf with a guide (three groups each with a guide) made all the difference instead of just wandering around. Since my last visit to The Leaf there has been a massive growth spurt. We were let loose to go back and see what we had already seen or to check out the gardens near the architectural wonder.

Our lunch was in a famous chain restaurant in a major hotel close to the airport. The food and service were outstanding, and they had everything ready for us. So, so tasty. Our fun ration of one giant cookie was presented to us on the charter bus.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Retired teachers from Fort La Bosse, plus members of the public listen to a guide in a new attraction - "The Leaf" - at Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg. Here in the tropical plants section it is like stepping into a jungle. Wow.

## AVIATION MUSEUM

Next stop was the aviation museum with the prestigious title, The Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada. We split into two groups. Our group had a former fighter pilot with a career of over 40 years in the RCAF. He was a flier through and through and not just in a jet fighter. He told tales of his own adventures and gave us a grand tour of nearly two hours with interesting accounts of aviation in Western Canada, especially the Winnipeg connection. You really must take in this museum. Every display had a descriptive plaque. But get in on a tour group to get the 100 per cent experience.

At the conclusion, the guides were thanked and we had time to spy out the museum's shop plus make use of the state-of-the-art washrooms. Some of us took photographs of the many aircraft on the floor and of those hanging from the ceiling. There were four aircraft parked outside the museum as static displays - an RCAF search and

rescue plane, a Voodoo jet fighter to stop Soviet Bombers and a civilian transport aircraft called the Box Car. We never made it to the second floor to watch jet airliners take-off and land, but we certainly heard them.

On our way home we stopped for supper at a well-known Brandon restaurant on the highway.

Our charter bus was a surprise compared to previous buses, with a large washroom in the back. The very back was configured with two tables with seats facing each other. The other seats on the bus were very comfortable with each of us having our own AC and reading lamp. What a way to travel!

We returned to the Royal Canadian Legion in Virden on time and in daylight as promised by our tour leader, Bethe Allison, who did a wonderful job in organizing the day trip. It was truly a fun experience for all of us.

That's it until next year and, please, try to come with us as it was fun, a learning experience and an eye-opener.

# Suspects arrested in motel break-in

## Westman RCMP Service Report for June 16 – 22



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Another day at work in Virden for Westman RCMP officers.

Submitted  
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 83 calls

for service. Of these, 21 were traffic related including 10 moving traffic - speeding violations, 6 mischief files, and 6 requests for well-

being checks.

**June 16** - during a routine traffic patrol in Virden, RCMP observed a female driving while holding a cell phone up

to her ear. A traffic stop was conducted and this driver was issued a ticket for using a cellular phone or other hand-operated electronic device while driving a vehicle which carries 3-day licence suspension penalty, as well as a \$672 fine. During the week, there were three additional traffic stops of this nature within Virden. The same 3-day licence suspension and fine were also issued in these incidents as well.

**June 16** - RCMP were dispatched to a call of a break and enter to a motel in Virden. Upon arrival, police located one suspect outside of the motel. Police were notified by a witness that there was another suspect inside one of the rooms who had entered by breaking a

window. Both suspects were arrested, and a 25-year-old female was charged with breaking, entering and committing mischief. She will appear in court in August.

**June 19** - RCMP received a report of a pickup truck driving off the road and into a body of water on Rd254 in the RM of Sifton. Police attended and witnessed signs of impairment in the driver. A 63-year-old man was arrested and charged with operation while impaired (alcohol) of motor vehicle, and operation while over 80mg% (alcohol) of motor vehicle. A breath test was conducted with results of 150mg% and 130mg%. He was later released on an appearance notice and will appear in court in August.

**June 20** during a routine traffic patrol on Hwy 1 in the RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle traveling at

a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 150 km/hr in a 110 km/hr zone. RCMP stopped the vehicle and it was discovered the driver had expired licence plates on the vehicle. Upon further investigation it was determined that the vehicle was appropriately registered but the new, valid licence plates had not yet been affixed to the vehicle. The driver was issued traffic offence notices for speeding which carries a fine of \$573, and displaying a number plate that does not match registration card which carries a fine of \$113.

To report a complaint or non-emergent incident to RCMP please call 204-748-2135. For general inquiries or administrative requests including criminal record checks please call 204-748-2046. If reporting an emergency, call 911.



# Teachers are honoured, some say goodbye



At the recent Fort La Bosse School Division staff recognition evening held in Oak Lake Community Hall egged on by the audience, staff know how to have fun with 'The Price is Right' the entertainment orchestrated by Executive Assistant to Superintendent Barry Pitz, Marcy Rowan: (l-r) Racquel Halland, Sandra Langlois, Jaysa-Lee Davies, Marcy Rowan, Tyra Zander and Tyler Mitchell.



Katrinka Johnson and Brad Hayward receive gifts to recognize their 30 years of employment with FLBSD.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Leaving FLB employ is Reston School Principal Amy Schiltroth, Chair of the FLBSD Board of Trustees Craig Russell, retiring Reston School librarian Kim Mackenzie and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees Becky Flannery.

**By Anne Davison**  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Every year Fort La Bosse School Division honours the many employees – teachers, educational assistants, librarians, bus drivers, support staff and division staff – who make the education programs run smoothly for students throughout K to 12 enrollment.

They gathered on June 6 in Oak Lake Community Hall – a beautiful new facility in the town. Here, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Craig Russell hosted the gathering. Oak Lake Community School Parent Council served up a delicious roast beef meal before the

'Educator Edition' of The Price is Right entertained.

Russell and Board Vice-Chair Becky Flannery presented many long-term service pins and awards. Custodian Janice Barre received 35-year recognition and a retirement gift.

Teachers Katrinka Johnson (Elkhorn Gr. 8-12) and Brad Hayward (Mary Montgomery principal) were awarded for their 30 years and will continue in their roles. Secretary-treasurer for the division Kent Reid was honoured for 25 years.

Staff of 20, 15 and 20 years were also recognized.

Of the 14 staff leaving FLB, some are retiring. Among those in attendance, the longest serving is

Kim Mackenzie who has worked for over 36 years as a librarian at Reston Schools and has just now retired.

Physio-therapist Theresa Wallace is retiring after 19 years with FLB. She says she cannot fix kids, but she's worked to "make kids the best they can be" throughout a 35-year career.

Other long-term staff are leaving including Keely Woods and Kari Schiltroth (both after 11.5 years). Debbie Leslie, art teacher at Golter (12 years); Lesia Miliken (13 years); Kent Schiltroth (17.5 years); Elkhorn band teacher Sandra Unger (18 years); and Colleen Chapman (24.5 years) are all leaving the division.



# ELKHORN COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

**BRYDON BLACK** Twin Valley Co-op Graduation Awards

Carson Krieser Bernard Tutthill Scholarship-Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce - Elkhorn & Area Foundation Scholarships - Fort La Bosse School Division Award - RM of Wallace-Woodworth Ward 2 Scholarship - The Brotherhood House Award-Governor General-Medal - ESPC Honour Roll - Fort La Bosse Honour Roll - Elkhorn School Athlete of the Year-plaque

**CARTER GIENI** Clayton Family Award- Twin Valley Employee Merit Awards - Elkhorn Tiny Tots

**LUKAS BAER** Stuart Shepherd Memorial Music Award - Valedictorian Award (Elkhorn Elks) - Virden Music & Arts Festival Award - ESPC Honour Roll - Fort La Bosse Honour Roll - Elkhorn School Outstanding Musician-plaque

**MORGAN KENNEDY** BossHill Creek Wildlife Club Award

**PIPER SISSON** Elkhorn Leisure Centre Bursary - Elkhorn & Area Foundation Scholarships - ESPC Honour Roll - Fort La Bosse Honour Roll

**SHAYLEE FRATTINGER** Elkhorn & Area Foundation Scholarships - Fusion Credit Union - Gavin Krieser Memorial Scholarship - Royal Canadian Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Award - Royal Canadian Legion #58 Award - Scott ELA Scholarship - Sunrise Credit Union Scholarship - ESPC Honour Roll - Fort La Bosse Honour Roll - Elkhorn School Athlete of the Year-plaque - Elkhorn School Student Council Member of the Year-plaque



**EVAN MILLS** Scott Trades Award

**TAYLOR ARCHER** Elkhorn & Area Foundation Scholarships - Gunby Family Award - RM of Ellice-Archie Scholarship - Twin Valley Employee Merit Awards - Twin Valley Co-op Graduation Awards-ESPC Honour Roll - Fort La Bosse Honour Roll

**PAYTON KYLE** Elkwood Manor Health Auxiliary Award - Elkhorn & Area Foundation Scholarships - Scott Most Improved Student Award - Twin Valley Co-op Board of Directors Scholarship - Village of Elkhorn Award - ESPC Honour Roll - Fort La Bosse Honour Roll

# RESTON COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

**HANNA WRAY** ACC One to Watch Award - Cecil & Helen Brownlee Scholarship - Pipestone-Sifton Conservation Award - Reston & Area Foundation Scholarship/Bursary Fund - Reston Figure Skating Club Award - Reston Legion Scholarship - Sinclair Lions Club Bursary - Valleyview Co-op Scholarship

**JOMARI ROSSOUW** Carlyle Jorgensen Memorial Scholarship - Cecil & Helen Brownlee Scholarship - Pipestone Lions Club Award - Reston & Area Foundation Scholarship/Bursary Fund

**LOGAN FLANNERY** Cecil & Helen Brownlee Scholarship-Chown Centennial Entrance Scholarship -Coraleigh Henuset Memorial Sports Bursary-Cromer Seed Plant & Area Scholarship - Kippen & Elizabeth Cates Memorial Scholarship - Patmore Family Award - Pipestone Legion Scholarship - Pipestone Lions Club Award - Reston Minor Baseball Award & Reston Minor Fastball Award - Reston Minor Hockey Award - Valedictorian Award

**EVERYBOULTON** Cromer Seed Plant & Area Scholarship - Reston Drugs Scholarship - Reston Hospital Auxiliary Award - Reston-Pipestone Pastoral Charge Scholarship

**NAIRN COOPER** Fort La Bosse School Division Scholarship - Gunby Family Award - Reston Drugs Scholarship - Reston Minor Baseball Award & Reston Minor Fastball Award-Rural Municipality of Pipestone Bursary - Sinclair Lions Club Bursary

**LUKE MACKENZIE** Pipestone Lions Club Award





# RESTON COLLEGIATE 2024



**AVERY SHAE BOULTON**

Plans: One year of sciences at Brandon University. Then on to Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Red River to be an ultrasound technician.



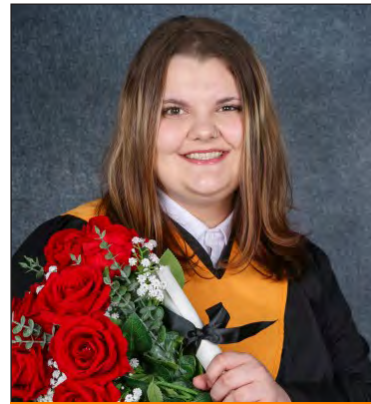
**NAIRN LLOYD COOPER**

Plans: Enrolled in Exercise Science and Rehabilitation at Brandon University to be an athletic therapist or physiotherapist.



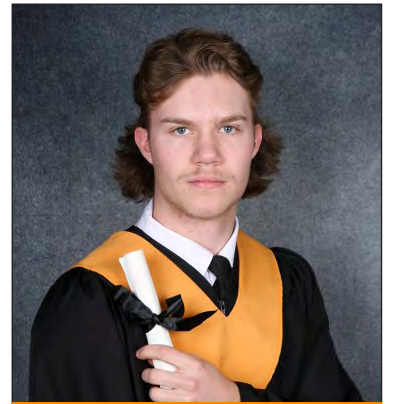
**LOGAN THOMAS ALFRED FLANNERY**

Plans: Go to Asper School of Business at University of Manitoba.



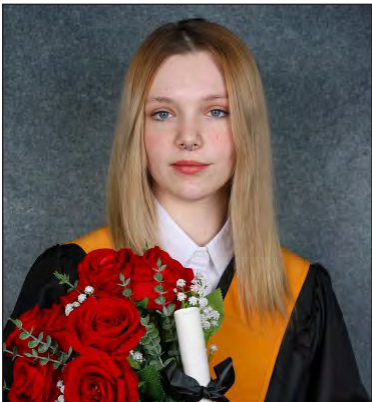
**HAYLEE LYNNE JONES**

Plans: To work for a year as a Health Care Aide and then on to school to be an LPN.



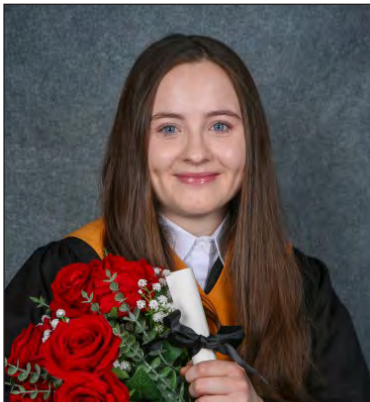
**LUKE GRADEN MACKENZIE**

Plans: To further pursue my hockey career and play NCAA Division 1 at Canisius University in Buffalo, New York.



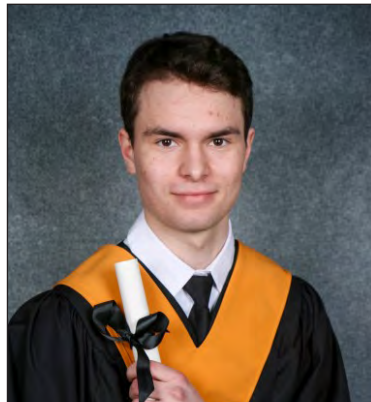
**JAI-LIN BELLE MCKELVEY**

Plans: To go to Regina University for film.



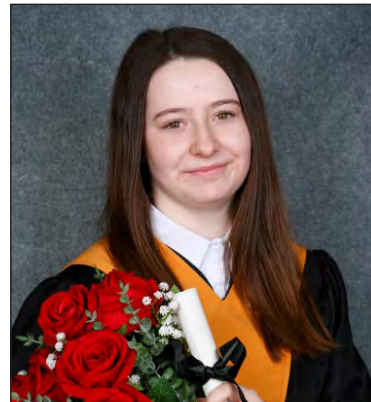
**JOMARI ROSSOUW**

Plans: Go to Assiniboine Community College to study Agri Business



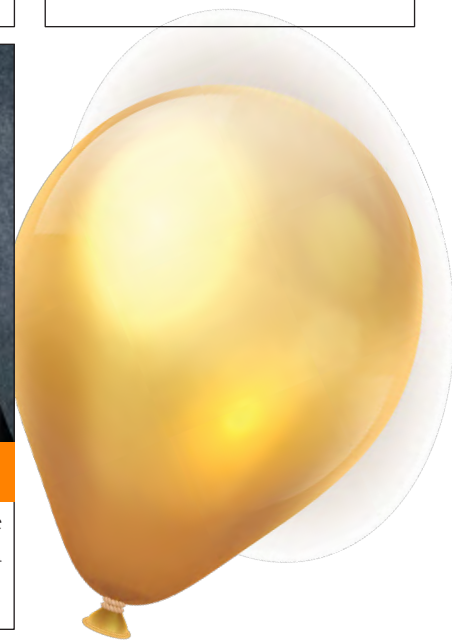
**LOGAN CADENCE TAYLOR**

Plans: Take a year off, move to the city, work & travel the world.



**HANNA EMILY WRAY**

Plans: To attend Assiniboine Community College for Land and Water Management



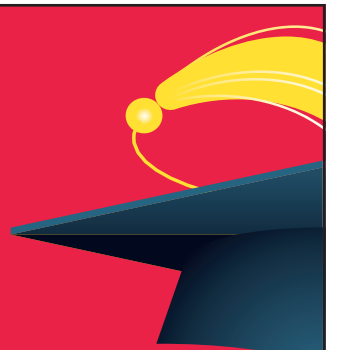
*“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world”*

**- Nelson Mandela**



**CONGRATULATIONS to all our graduates from**  
**Elkhorn School, Plainview Colony School,**  
**Reston School & Virden Collegiate**

From the Fort La Bosse School Division Board of Trustees and Senior Administration





ELKHORN COLLEGIATE 2024



**BRYDON BLACK**  
Plans: To enter the workforce for a year and then pursue a trade.



**CARSON KRIESER**  
Plans: To attend University of Manitoba to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree and further his studies in the field of health care.



**CARTER GIENI**  
Plans: To attend Brandon University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Education.



**EVAN MILLS**  
Plans: To enter the workforce and then plans to explore apprenticeship or other post-secondary opportunities.



**LUKAS BAER**  
Plans: To go to Australia for a six-month music program with Youth with a Mission. Lukas then plans to pursue post-secondary education.



**MORGAN KENNEDY**  
Plans: To work as an educational assistant for FLBSD, hopefully at Elkhorn School, and is doing online educational assistant courses from Assiniboine Community College.



**PAYTON KYLE**  
Plans: Will be attending the University of Regina taking a bachelor in science with hopes of getting into the lab and x-ray program.



**PIPER SISSON**  
Plans: To work for a year while staying involved in local community theatre productions. She then plans to attend post-secondary education.



**SHAYLEE FRATTINGER**  
Plans: To attend the University of Saskatchewan in the fall to take a year of Bachelor of Science and continue on to pursue a career in the medical field.




**TAYLOR ARCHER**  
Plans: To pursue a diploma in computer science at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon.

*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”*  
- Aristotle

Graduation is not the end,  
it is just the beginning

**CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF 2024!**

 **Reston Car Wash**  
4th Street, Reston

 **Wishing the  
Best of Luck  
to the Class of 2024!**

**Reston District Library**  
220 4th Street, Reston • 204-877-3673

**Congratulations  
to the Reston School  
Class of 2024!**

 **CROSMAN**  
DIRECT UNDERGROUND (ACQ.) INC.  
DIRECTIONAL DRILLING • HYDRO VACS

Reston, MB | 204.851.5924



**Congratulations  
to the  
Class of 2024**

May this be the beginning of a great adventure



**MUNICIPALITY OF  
PIPESTONE**  
RESTON • SINCLAIR • CROMER • PIPESTONE



BOUNDARY LANE COLONY COLLEGIATE 2024



LENAE KLEINSASSER

Plans: To stay and work on the colony.



MELIJAH KLEINSASSER

Plans: To stay and work on the colony.



“Wisdom is not a product of education; it is a result of a lifetime of learning”

- Albert Einstein

*Congratulations*  
**CLASS of 2024**

**LARRY MAGUIRE MP**  
BRANDON—SOURIS  
LARRY.MAGUIRE@PARL.GC.CA  
LARRYMAGUIRE.COM • 204-726-7600

*class of*  
**2024**  
CONGRATS!  
**TUTTHILL**  
CONSTRUCTION  
139 Richhill Avenue West, Elkhorn | (204) 845-2405

*Congratulations*  
**GRADUATES!**

**GRANT JACKSON**  
MLA FOR SPRUCE WOODS  
WWW.GRANTJACKSON.CA  
204-590-9571

*Congratulations*  
**CLASS OF 2024!**

**ELKHORN ELKS NO. 381**  
ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS  
CONTACT US FOR DETAILS!  
ELKHORNELKS381@GMAIL.COM

CONGRATULATIONS  
*Class of 2024*

It took a lot of hard work to reach this goal. You had to show up every day, whether you felt like it or not. I hope you feel great about what you've accomplished, and I hope you'll continue to be a person who shows up day in and day out for those things that are worthwhile and important in life. Enjoy your special day!

**Greg Nesbitt**  
MLA Riding Mountain  
204-759-3313  
1-844-877-7767  
gregnesbittmla@mymts.net

WISHING MUCH SUCCESS TO THE  
**GRADUATES OF 2024!**

Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.

**CO-OP**  
Valleyview  
Virden • Melita • Pierson  
Oak Lake • Oak River  
Kenton • Reston  
valleyviewco-op.crs

**Happy Graduation**  
*Congratulations to the Class of 2024!*

**ELKHORN, MB**  
204-845-2315

**JEBB** ELECTRIC AND AUTOMATION



# Canadian Dental Care Plan Misconceptions

The Government of Canada started implementing a \$13 billion Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) last month. This plan represents a significant opportunity to improve oral healthcare access for Canadians without dental access to dental benefits.

Today, over two million Canadian seniors have been approved to receive dental care coverage. By next year, an estimated nine million uninsured Canadians will be eligible for the plan. This is excellent news. Yet only a small percentage of Canada's 25,000 dentists have registered to participate in the program so far.

Despite our continued advocacy for changes to **reduce** program complexity, **protecting** patient privacy, and **securing** clarity on terms and conditions, the program remains flawed. Further, issues and misconceptions about the program by the public persist.

In fact, in a survey conducted this month by the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) and the Provincial and Territorial Dental Associations (PTDAs), we learned that while many seniors require extensive dental work, 40% seniors would struggle to afford \$100 copay and 60% are not aware they will face additional costs under the CDCP.

This is a problem. Our primary concern with these troubling findings is that patients will not receive the care they need under this program. Additionally, this misunderstanding about the program is likely to add extra pressure on dentist visits.

Unless things change and the government makes a concerted effort to clearly communicate the parameters and limitations of their plan, many people in Canada will experience difficulty in accessing a dentist.

Dentists are deciding how and when they may participate. They care about their patients and their oral health and are looking for a program that can integrate efficiently with their staff and practices.

Although we acknowledge Health Minister Mark Holland's responsiveness and the progress that has been made to date to address dentists' concerns with the program, there are still some fundamental issues that directly impact patients that have been left unresolved.

Dental offices across Manitoba and Canada are faced with having difficult conversations with patients about CDCP misconceptions. In fact, recent surveys with dentists show that dental office staff spend on average 50 minutes per day explaining the federal program to patients. This creates a huge administrative burden to dental offices.

Canada has a severe shortage of skilled dental office staff, particularly dental hygienists & dental assistants. There is concern these shortages may affect dental offices' ability to participate with the CDCP.

The Manitoba Dental Association, PTDAs, and the CDA are undertaking an education initiative encouraging people who are eligible for the CDCP to **Know Before you Go**.

Based on what we're hearing from our patients and know about our profession/practice, this is what Manitobans and Canadians need to know before they go to their dentist and seek treatment under the CDCP:

**"For many patients, treatments under the CDCP will not be free."**

Many people are under the impression the CDCP will cover all the costs for their care. This is not the case. Patients with an adjusted net family income between \$70,000 and \$90,000 are responsible for a federal government required "co-payment" of between 40-60% of fees set out by the government. In addition, the coverage provided by the federal government for all eligible CDCP patients (regardless of family net income) is less than full cost of the dental service. The difference will be on you.

**"Patients can receive CDCP covered treatments from any dentist."**

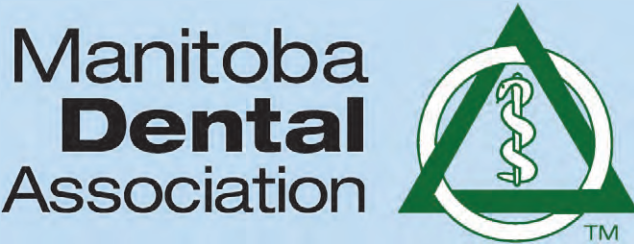
Until July, patients can only see a dentist registered to participate in the program.

After July, patients can also see a dentist that will participate through the government claim-by-claim pathway. However, this non-registration pathway still requires dentists to accept the same unclear terms and conditions with patient privacy concerns and not all dentists are willing to do so. This lack of clarity will leave patients confused and, in some cases, they may be unable to find a dentist to treat them under the CDCP.

**"The CDCP will cover all oral treatments today."**

Currently, the CDCP offers limited coverage and treatment options. Care options like sedation, crowns, partial dentures and additional units of scaling, as needed by youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities, will need government pre-approval which does not start until November of 2024. We still don't know how long you, our patients, will need to wait for the government to approve the treatment we know you may need.

Canada's new national dental plan still has the promise of being a true game-changer for oral health, enabling expanded access to care for many Canadians, but only if done correctly. Troublesome aspects that are holding dentists back from participating have not been fully addressed. While there's still time to fix what's wrong with CDCP, the clock is ticking.



## The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) Information for Patients

The Manitoba Dental Association is deeply committed to assisting the Government of Canada in designing, implementing and sustaining a successful and effective Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) for the benefit of all Manitobans.

1. The Manitoba Dental Association has advocated for the right of patients to see their provider of choice.
  - a. Starting after July 8, 2024, patients will no longer be restricted to Sun Life Canada-registered dentists.
  - b. Please contact your dentist to see if they are accepting the Canadian Dental Care Plan in their office.
2. The CDCP is not a free dental program. It is a dental benefit program administered by Health Canada.
  - a. Health Canada is not paying for the full cost of your dental care.
  - b. Patients may be required to make a payment up to 75% depending on their adjusted net family income.
3. Not all services are covered.
  - a. It is not a comprehensive plan, so please talk to your dentist about your oral health needs.
4. The Manitoba Dental Association will continue to advocate for positive changes for CDCP-eligible patients.

**Know before you go.**

Visit the Health Canada website at

[www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental.html)

**Talk to your Dentist**  
**Good for you. Good for life.**





Essay category. Elkhorn School had three winners. Kayden Shiner placed First in the Senior Black/White poster category; Shaylee Frattinger placed Second in the Senior Poem category and Austin Tutthill received First in the Intermediate Essay category. Comrade Wright congratulated all the students and thanked them for their participation in the contest.



# SPORTS

## CANART GIVES BACK TO SPORT HE LOVES BY LEADING HOCKEY MANITOBA



Boyd Canart

By Robin Work  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Elkhorn resident Boyd Canart's passion for hockey has helped him earn the top leadership position in that sport in this province.

Earlier this year Canart was elected as Hockey Manitoba's president. He brings to the role playing, coaching, and executive experience.

"I basically live, eat and breathe hockey," Canart said.

According to its website, Hockey Manitoba registers about 30,000 members each year. It is "designed to promote and develop amateur hockey throughout Manitoba in affiliation with Hockey Canada, Sport Manitoba, and our member regional hockey associations, minor hockey associations and leagues." Canart heads into his two-year term with a variety of experience and a perspective that is both rural and youthful.

"I'm excited because I bring a different gen-

eration to these roles," he said. "I'm 34 years old and most of the people I deal with at the Hockey Canada level and the Hockey Manitoba level are all in their 50s or 60s, so I bring a little bit of a younger perspective into this organization. I think that we are in difficult times with the way the world is and I think that it takes someone like myself who is fighting through with a family right now to look at all of the struggling areas and try to find a way to fix them."

Canart acknowledges the high cost of items such as gas and food have an impact on minor hockey. He believes just like players on the ice come together as a team, that parents and organizers need to work together to take on some of these challenges.

Two areas Canart wants to focus on during his term are increasing diversity on the Hockey Manitoba board and transparency. He wants to see people of indigenous and other backgrounds

represented. As well, Canart seeks to be transparent about what the organization is doing.

"Being transparent with our membership creates a better all-around experience within our sport," he said.

Canart wants to keep the fun players and parents experience in the early years of hockey to stay a part of the game as they move on to higher levels.

"If you go to a U7 game or a snowflake game, and look at the parents and grandparents in the crowd and you see them laugh and you see them smile and you can see the kids make mistakes on the ice," he said. "It's the cutest thing possible. At some point in hockey we make it where by the time they get to U13, U11 it's not OK to make mistakes anymore. Nobody's laughing. That's a dark side of the game we definitely need to look at curbing. We need to bring the fun back into the game. We need to bring the smiles back onto the faces of kids. They need to know that it's OK to mess up. That's how you learn."

Canart grew up loving hockey. He had to stop playing at about 15 and a half due to concussions. His twin brother, Cameron, was selected in the Western Hockey League draft and was part of two Portage Terriers' Manitoba Junior Hockey League championships. This experience impacts the perspective Canart brings to the president's role.

"I bring the aspect of somebody who didn't get to play AAA," he said. "Somebody who had their dreams taken away from them. It makes me strongly realize the game is not everything in everybody's life. We need to make sure we're focusing on building decent human beings. The competitive edge is fantastic. I think

it needs to be there for some select individuals, but I think every single individual that plays our sport becomes a better person because of it. I think that's the most important part of it all."

After having to give up playing, Canart had a hard time and dealt with

alcohol addiction. With his current involvement in hockey, he said, "This is kind of my way of giving something back to the community that was taken from me."

Canart has coached at various levels. Last season he was an assistant coach for the U17 AAA Can-

adian Ice Bandits, who are based in Elkhorn. He was a member of his hometown hockey board and became the president of the Elkhorn District Community Centre for two years. Canart also served as the director of the regional Yellowhead Hockey.



**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
OF PROSPECTIVE  
CANDIDATE FOR WARD 1  
MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION**

Please be advised that a municipal by-election will be held on August 29, 2024.

Rural Municipality of Ellice – Archie

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of Ward 1 councillor: Between June 27, 2024 and July 24, 2024

at the R.M. of Ellice – Archie office at

318 Railway Avenue, McAuley OR  
331 Main Street, St. Lazare

during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

Box 100 – 331 Main Street  
St. Lazare, MB R0M 1Y0  
Ph: 204.683.2241  
Fx: 204.683.2317  
stlazare@rmofellicearchie.ca  
Constance Tanguay, SEO

**AVIS D'INSCRIPTION  
POUR CANDIDAT POTENTIEL POUR LES ÉLECTIONS PARTIELLE MUNICIPALES**

Soyez avisés que les élections partielles municipales seront tenues le 29 août 2024.

Municipalité rurale d'Ellice-Archie

Les candidats municipaux potentiels doivent s'inscrire auprès de la fonctionnaire électorale principale (SEO) durant la période d'inscription avant d'accepter des contributions, d'engager des dépenses, faire des collectes de fonds ou emprunter des argent pour leur campagne électorale.

UN AVIS EST DONNÉ que je recevrais les inscriptions de candidatures :

Pour le poste de conseiller du quartier 1 : Entre le 27 juin 2024 et le 24 juillet 2024

Au bureau de la municipalité rurale d'Ellice-Archie à

318, avenue Railway, McAuley OR  
331, rue Main, St. Lazare

Durant les heures ouvrables de bureau.

Pour obtenir un formulaire, veuillez communiquer avec la fonctionnaire électorale principale aux numéros de téléphone ici-bas :

Case Postale 100 – 331, rue Main  
St. Lazare, MB R0M 1Y0  
Ph: 204.683.2241  
Fx: 204.683.2317  
stlazare@rmofellicearchie.ca  
Constance Tanguay, FÉP



# SWBL: COCHRANE UNAFRAID AT THE PLATE FOR OILERS

By Robin Work  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Danny Cochrane is not afraid to put his body on the line for the Virden Oilers.

Entering last week the veteran senior baseball player had been hit by a pitch five times. That led the South West Baseball League although Cochrane had at least 10 fewer plate appearances than the next four players in that category.

"I guess what makes me fearless at the plate is a combination of a desire to win, an aging body, and diminishing abilities that I'll do anything to get on base," Cochrane said.

As of Monday, Cochrane's five times of being hit by a pitch placed him fifth in the league. He had an on-base percentage of .400.

"At the plate, Danny always provides lengthy at bats and is selective in his swings," Oilers player/organizer Jeff Peael said. "He isn't afraid to stand in front of a ball that's about to hit him and has a good on base percentage."

Last week the Oilers had their June 17 contest versus Rivers postponed due to rain. They played on June 19 with the Comets prevailing, 5-1. On Sunday, the Oilers hit the road and fell 4-3 to the Boissevain Centennials, but rebounded for a 10-8 victory over the Wawanesa Brewers in an extra inning. After three innings, the

Oilers led the league-leading Centennials, 3-0. The Boissevain team scored two in the sixth and two more in the seventh to pick up the win. Garrett Popplestone hit a home run for Virden. Against the Brewers, Virden knotted the contest up at 8 with three runs in the sixth and then won it by pushing two across in the top of the eighth. Leif Wilson started on the mound for Virden. Jeremy Johnson picked up the win with six innings of work. Jeff Peel earned a save and also drove in four runs. Keifer Johnston had two runs batted in.

The team was to host the Hamiota Red Sox June 25 after the Empire-Advance deadline. The Oak River Dodgers come to town on Friday.

Cochrane played for the Oilers earlier in his senior baseball career before joining the Brandon-based Cardinals for the 2019-2022 seasons. The Virden team is pleased to have him back. Peel said, "Danny's knowledge and maturity make him a valuable player for us."

He emphasized that Cochrane does a lot of things well for the Oilers. Cochrane is usually utilized in leftfield but he can also catch and play second base.

"He is a reliable glove in the outfield who has played for many years," Peel said. "He frequently makes catches that are difficult and can get jumps on balls with his experience playing the field."

When asked what he enjoys most about playing for the Oilers, Cochrane said it "is simply the guys."

"We have a great group of guys that care for one another and we all want to see the next guy succeed," he said. "I'm extremely lucky to be able to play with some of the same guys I grew up with and have our kids and wives at the diamond supporting us. We also have a lot of great young guys coming up that have made the diamond a really fun place to be in the last few years."

Reston Rockets

The Rockets lost 10-0 at home to the Boissevain Centennials on June 19. Former Virden resident Zane Sawyer struck out nine and allowed four hits in the shutout for the Centennials. On June 21, the visiting Oak River Dodgers won 8-5. The Rockets' Brandin Ripley hit a home run. On June 23, the Rockets fell 13-3 at home to the Rivers Comets.

The Reston team plays in Deloraine on Friday and Oak River on Tuesday.

Elkhorn Expos

The Elkhorn team lost 5-1 to the Hamiota Red Sox at home on June 20. Brady Frattinger drove in the host's run.

The Expos were slated to host the Rivers Comets on June 27 after the Empire-Advance deadline. They are in Hamiota on July 5.

# VIRDEN

CENTRE OF IT ALL

Animal Control:  
204-851-1810

Emergency After Hours:  
204-851-5540

Facility Bookings:  
204-748-2440

Town Office:  
204-748-2440

Tundra Oil & Gas Place:  
204-748-2736

Waste Disposal Grounds:  
204-748-3422

## Summer Ice Available for Booking

\$210 + GST per hour

Non-refundable 50% deposit due at the time of booking.

Please contact Melody at the Town Office for more information.



## Current Employment Opportunities

★ Utilities Foreman

For additional info, please visit  
[www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities](http://www.virden.ca/p/employment-opportunities)  
or email [info@virden.ca](mailto:info@virden.ca)



## Dog and Cat Licenses

are available for purchase at the  
Town Office.

## Town Office Summer Hours

May 31 to August 30 inclusive, the  
Town of Virden Office will be closed  
at 4:00 PM on Fridays.



## Tax Prepayment Discounts

The Town of Virden offers tax prepayment discounts as outlined below to taxpayers wishing to pay an installment or installments on their 2024 property taxes. Those wishing to prepay may pay an amount or a series of amounts that in total does not exceed the amount of their 2023 property taxes. The discount rate is equivalent to an effective annual interest rate of 3%.

| Month of Payment | Discount Rate | Savings on \$1,000.00 |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| July             | 0.75%         | \$7.50                |

Tax prepayments made in the months of August, September or October will be accepted at par.

Tax prepayments can be made by mailing a cheque with the **tax roll number** written on the reverse to the Town of Virden, Box 310, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, e-transfer to [clerk@virden.ca](mailto:clerk@virden.ca), via online banking, or by attending the Town Office in person during normal business hours.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440.

## Virden Spray Park

Now open daily from  
10:00 AM-8:00 PM



**Upcoming Council Meetings:**  
Tuesday, July 16 & Tuesday, August 13

**Please Note:**  
Town of Virden Council meetings begin at 7:00 PM

## Canada Day Hours

Town Office – closed July 1  
Tundra Oil and Gas Place – closed July 1  
Virden Landfill – closed June 29-July 1



## 2024 Summer Day Camp



Registration is now open.  
For more information, visit  
[www.virden.ca](http://www.virden.ca) or call the Town  
Office at 204-748-2440.

## 2024 Swimming Lesson registration is open

For more information, visit  
[www.virden.ca](http://www.virden.ca) or  
call the pool office at  
204-748-2736 ext 3.



## Dutch Elm Disease Program

Monitoring and surveys are underway  
by MB Forestry & Peatlands Branch.

- Inspectors will be viewing private and public properties.
- For more information, please call 204-748-2440, or the Tree Line at 204-945-7866



\*2 column x 2.0" ad when booked for 52 weeks



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

#### Facility Operator

The Rural Municipality of Pipestone is now accepting applications for a full-time Facility Operator position in our Facilities Department

For further information regarding this position please visit [www.rmofpipestone.com](http://www.rmofpipestone.com) Employment Opportunities.

Applications will be accepted until Friday July 5th, 2024

Mailed to: Box 99, Reston, MB, R0M 1X0

Emailed to:

[hpipestone@rmofpipestone.com](mailto:hpipestone@rmofpipestone.com)

Or faxed to: 204-877-3999

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted.

Feel the Momentum... Experience the Energy!  
[www.rmofpipestone.com](http://www.rmofpipestone.com)

## Help Wanted

### Empire-Advance

serving virden & area since 1885

#### Employment opportunity

The Virden Empire Advance is looking for an **Office Manager**

Office hours will be 9-4,  
Monday through Friday.

Good public relation skills are essential. Some computer skills required and further training will be provided on other aspects of the position.

The Office Manager will be responsible for:

- Getting the mail
- Making deposits
- Serving customers over the phone and in-person
- Paper distribution one day per week when office will be closed during distribution time. A vehicle will be provided for paper distribution

Please submit resumes by email to Owner/publisher Ken Waddell at [virdenempireadvance@outlook.com](mailto:virdenempireadvance@outlook.com)

## Memoriam

### McNeill

*In loving memory of*

**Desmond**

March 30, 1988

**Robbie**

August 23, 1958

**Karen**

June 26, 2019

*Time cannot steal the memories  
That we carry in our hearts.  
Nor ever dim the shining thoughts  
Our cherished past imparts  
For the memories of the ones we loved  
Still cast a gentle glow  
To grace our days and light our paths  
Wherever we may go.*

*Remembered and sadly missed by Gladys, Barry,  
Patti, Ed, Cindy, Monty, Grandchildren, Great  
Grandchildren Nieces and Nephews*

## Announcement



### Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$239.00 (includes 35 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email [classified@mcna.com](mailto:classified@mcna.com)  
[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

### Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

#### NOTICES

Advertisements and statements contained herein are the sole responsibility of the persons or entities that post the advertisement, and the Manitoba Community Newspaper Association and membership do not make any warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, truthfulness or reliability of such advertisements. For greater information on advertising conditions, please consult the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com).

**URGENT PRESS RELEASES** - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for **ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST**. Call MCNA (204) 947-1691 for more information. See [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com) under the "Types of Advertising" tab

for more details.

**NEED STAFF? NEED CLASS 1 DRIVERS? SELLING SOMETHING?** Have your blanket classified ads seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Now booking advertising for the remainder of 2024. Plan your success! Please **Call THIS NEWSPAPER NOW** to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

**FEED & SEED / AGRICULTURAL FORAGE SEED FOR SALE:** Organic & conventional: Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover, Smooth Brome, Meadow Brome, Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy, etc. Star City, SK. Birch Rose Acres Ltd. 306-921-9942.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

#### Public Works Administrative Clerk

The Rural Municipality of Pipestone is now accepting applications for a full-time Administration Clerk position in our Public Works Department.

For further information regarding this position please visit [www.rmofpipestone.com](http://www.rmofpipestone.com) Employment Opportunities.

Applications will be accepted until Friday July 5th, 2024

Mailed to: Box 99, Reston, MB, R0M 1X0

Emailed to:

[hpipestone@rmofpipestone.com](mailto:hpipestone@rmofpipestone.com)

Or faxed to: 204-877-3999

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted.

Feel the Momentum... Experience the Energy!  
[www.rmofpipestone.com](http://www.rmofpipestone.com)

## Birthday Announcement



**HEY! YOU!**

If you are reading me, that means others are too! Place your Classified here!

## For Sale

### WANTED

Coins,  
Coin Collection,  
Old Jewelry,



Cash paid for silver coins, gold coins, rare coins, old coins & paper \$, Olympic coins, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, US Mint etc, unwanted jewelry, old Rolex & Omega watches, nuggets, sterling silver, Bullion, all Gold & Silver!

#### Wanted:

USA, Canada, World Coin Sets & Coin Collections. Will buy entire collections & accumulations!

**Todd**  
306-774-2420

## Auctions

### Online McSherry Auctions

**Estate of Donald Gulewich Auction**

July 11th @ 7:00PM

Stonewall, MB

1 Mile South on Hwy 236 then 1 1/2 Miles East on Winfield Road #7108E

04 Wildcat 28' Camper, Sea Ray Cabin Cruiser 22', 03 Chevy Tracker, 03 Chevy Blazer, Paddle Boat, Tools, Household, Jewelry

204-467-1858 or 204-886-7027  
[McSherryAuction.com](http://McSherryAuction.com)

### Online McSherry Auctions

#### Estate & Moving

2015 Dodge Ram 2500 Safetied, 2000 Ford F350 with B+H, 2010 Chevy Malibu 86,000kms with Trans. Issue July 3rd @ 7:00 PM

#### Estate & Moving

July 10th @ 7:00PM

12 Patterson Dr.

Stonewall, MB

204-467-1858 or

204-886-7027

[McSherryAuction.com](http://McSherryAuction.com)

Visit our website:  
[empireadvance.ca](http://empireadvance.ca)

## Thank-you



*Thank you*

I wish to thank all my friends, family and those in the organizations she belonged to as well as all the healthcare professionals for their thoughtful help and condolences that were extended to me during Doreen's long illness and her passing. It is most deeply appreciated.

Alex Grieve



## For Sale

### BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING! 50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

\*Auto \*Farm \*Truck  
\*Construction \*ATV  
\*Motorcycle \*Golf Carts  
\*Rechargeables \*Tools  
\*Computers \*Medical  
\*All phones \*Chargers  
\*Marine \*RV & more  
Shipping/Delivery avail.

**THE BATTERY MAN**  
1390 St. James St.  
Winnipeg  
TF 1-877-775-8271  
[www.batteryman.ca](http://www.batteryman.ca)





# Fireside chat looks at local needs



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

AMM President Kam Blight opens the Western District conference on June 12 in Virden.

By Dale Davison  
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Municipal councillors from across the region met to discuss matters of local importance with representatives of the Manitoba government. The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) held their Western Division district meeting in Virden's Tundra Oil and Gas Place (TOGP) on June 12. From Neepawa to Cartwright to the Saskatchewan border the AMM Western District has 24 municipalities. It is the largest of all the AMM districts.

Virden's Mayor Tina Williams brought greetings from the host community to open the event. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Scott Phillips, RM of Sifton, and Councillor Rhonda Coupland of Boissevain-Morton. Town of Virden Councillor Mark Savy was elected chairman of the resolution session.

## FIRESIDE CHAT

AMM President Kam Blight and provincial Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations Ian Bushie held a "fireside chat" to discuss local concerns. Bushie described contributions his government has made to municipalities through the latest budget and emphasized the government's commitment to improve the lot of all Manitobans.

Blight summarized the AMM reaction to the

budget saying, "As a first budget it was somewhat positive for municipalities." He noted that funding for municipalities had not been cut and there had been significant increases in health care and funding for airports. He added that although the two percent general funding increase is welcome, "It's not enough."

Other issues raised by questions from the floor included the reduction in funding for Green Team and other community organizations. Blight said that grant programs for community projects were always, "massively over-subscribed," and cuts to these programs would have a significant effect.

Bill 37, a bill that would regulate planning in municipalities was criticized by Blight because it would authorize the provincially appointed Municipal Board to make decisions on local matters. He said, "61 percent of those surveyed felt elected municipal councils should make these decisions while only 20 percent approved of an unelected Municipal Board having that authority."

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Many municipal councillors commented that the discussions among small groups regarding issues specific to their communities like housing shortages and crime were very productive,

as ideas and opinions were shared among representatives of communities from across the region. As always, getting acquainted with new council members and renewing relationships with old friends during breaks opened the door to new ideas.

## RESOLUTIONS

The final item on the agenda was the discussion and voting on resolutions brought by AMM members. These resolutions focus on issues relevant to western Manitoba municipalities and approve the AMM to lobby the provincial government to enact needed policy changes.

A resolution was directed to Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) to authorize municipalities to set the speed limit on provincial roads travelling through urban areas. It stated that as municipalities best know the traffic flow and safety concerns in their communities, they should have the responsibility for setting speed limits. The resolution passed.

Another resolution noted that the provincial policy of only constructing and maintaining the main lanes on provincial roads leaves construction and maintenance of parking and surface drainage to the municipalities. The AMM will lobby MTI to assist with the related costs.

A resolution directed to the Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Agriculture departments focused on preventing illegal night hunting. This dangerous practice has been reduced in recent years by increased enforcement, and AMM will lobby the province to enhance this through helicopter surveillance, adding 25 new conservation officers and creating a formal collaboration between conservation officers and RCMP. Illegal night hunting enforcement also provides an important deterrent to other rural crime.

Several area municipalities, including the Town of Virden and the RMs of Wallace-Woodworth and Pipestone agreed to lobby the Manitoba government to amend the act that requires non-profit senior residences to submit an annual audited finan-

cial statement and to allow them to continue the practice of an independent third-party review of financial records. The resolution states that the audit requirement is expensive and would affect the viability of these small non-profit organizations. If the act is not amended the AMM will lobby for a grant to cover the entire cost of the audits.

## VIRDEN CONCERNS

As the host of the meeting, Town of Virden proposed three resolutions that focused on issues of local interest.

The current Manitoba refrigeration course exams for ice plant operation certification have an 80 percent fail rate making it difficult to train qualified employees at smaller arena facilities in the region. As the exam content does not reflect the actual job responsibilities of the arena staff, the AMM will lobby the provincial government to create a revised exam

that focuses on the skills required.

Because of its location on the Trans-Canada highway, Virden is sometimes required to provide shelter for stranded travellers when the highway closes. When this happens the Sunrise Banquet Hall is used as lodging and the local fire department and RCMP are called out to assist. The AMM will lobby to have these costs reimbursed.

The province has been the source of project funding for Virden Employment Skills Centre for 29 years. The Centre has always exceeded required provincial targets to be eligible for this funding and built strong working relationships in the area. Although the population of the region has grown and inflation has increased costs, funding has not kept up so the AMM will lobby the province for a new funding formula that will distribute resources fairly.



## SAVE WITH OUR HOME INSULATION REBATE

### Qualify. Insulate. Get a Rebate.

Adding insulation to your attic, walls, and foundation will improve your home's comfort and help you reduce energy costs.

Learn more at [efficiencyMB.ca/homeinsulation](http://efficiencyMB.ca/homeinsulation)

Approval is required before you start your project.  
Work with a registered supplier to qualify.

**EFFICIENCY  
MANITOBA**

**SAVE TODAY.  
SAVE TOMORROW.**







## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Kola Evangelical Mennonite Church**  
57036 Road 171 West, Kola  
(204) 556-2635  
**Worship Service:**  
Sunday at 11:00 am  
with Pastor Ernie Reimer

**Trinity United Church**  
102 Foxford Ave East, Elkhorn  
(204) 845-2110  
**Worship Service:**  
Sunday 10:00 am  
with Rev. Marianne Olfrey

**Elkhorn Anglican Church**  
6 First Street, Elkhorn  
(204) 748-1379  
**Worship Service:**  
2:00 pm - Third Sunday  
of the Month from April - Oct  
Calls are welcome to confirm  
if church service is happening

**Elkhorn Gospel Fellowship**  
209 Kildare Street, Elkhorn

**Manson Church of Christ**  
@ Elkhorn Leisure Centre  
10 Richhill Ave West, Elkhorn  
Luc: (431) 763-6996  
Eldon: (204) 722-2314  
**Worship Service:**  
Most Sundays 11:00 am  
Bible Study at 10:00 am

**Kenton United Church**  
Cornwall St & Harvey Ave, Kenton  
(204) 838-2091

**Lenore Community Church**  
Keith Street, Lenore

*Please note, the above information is based on regular service times. Service times may change due to the affects of the pandemic. If in doubt, please contact the place of worship directly for up-to-date information*

*Errors to the above information? Please contact us at 204-748-3931 or sales@empireadvance.ca*



Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from June 1, 2024 – November 15, 2024, to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations, and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

The herbicide active ingredients to be used include:

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • MCPA Ester          | • Chlorsulfuron          |
| • Saflufenacil        | • Fluroxypyr             |
| • Carfentrazone-ethyl | • Aminocyclopyrachlor    |
| • Pyraflufen-ethyl    | • Aminopyralid           |
| • Bromoxynil          | • Diflufenopyr           |
| • Clopyralid          | • Metsulfuron-methyl     |
| • Glyphosate          | • Picloram               |
| • Dicamba             | • Mecoprop-P             |
| • 2, 4-D              | • Adjuvant               |
| • 2, 4-DB             | • Surfactant blend       |
| • Aminopyralid        | • Solvent                |
| • Propyzamide         | (petroleum hydrocarbons) |
| • Indaziflam          |                          |

Any person may, within 15 days after the notice is published, send a written submission to the department below, regarding the control program or register with the department their written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35), Winnipeg, Manitoba R3Y 0L6



**Virden Eyecare is having a sale on prescription and non prescription sunglasses.**



**Save 25% from June 17 to September 27.**

- Eye Exams By Appointment

**Virden Eyecare Centre**

170 Nelson St W, Virden, MB  
204-748-1094

*Happy Birthday*

Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa  
on your

*100th Birthday*  
on June 28th.

We are having a Come & Go Tea on June 29th from 2:00-3:30pm at the Virden Legion Club room. Everyone welcome. No gifts please, your presence will be your gift.

*Love you Dad!*



# VIRDEN'S CANADA DAY PARADE

Hosted by

**Virden Canada Day Celebration Committee**

Parade will start at fair grounds and end in front of the Legion

Parade Marshall: Wallace District Fire Department



**JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2024 12:00 NOON**

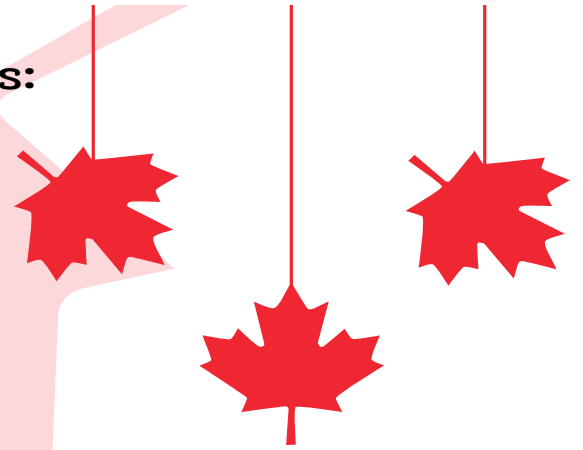
Facebook: Virden Canada Day Celebration



Canada Day Celebration Committee Presents:

# CANADA DAY JULY 1ST

VIRDEN, MB



**Victoria Park**  
**1:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Opening Ceremonies with FREE cake to follow

|                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Bouncy Castles | Kids Games             |
| Lazer Tag      | Cornhole Tourney       |
| Face Painting  | Scavenger Hunt         |
| Beer Gardens   | Entertainment on Stage |
| Food Vendors   | Outdoor Market         |

🎵 Evening Entertainment: 🎵  
Along for the Ride

**Around Town**

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free Swimming  
12:00 p.m. Parade  
Fireworks @ Ball Diamonds

**FREE Admission!**

Please bring your own lawn chair  
For more details, call: 204-748-2440

